

CLAIMS

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1. A method for providing secure documentation, including the steps of:
providing a secure document having printed information and coded data
5 thereon, the coded data including a unique identifier indicative of the secure document;
recording, in a computer system, a correspondence between the secure document and validity status and/or authenticity information relating to the document;
and
providing a sensing device adapted to sense said coded data on the secure
10 document, the sensing device being further adapted for communication with said computer system, whereby the validity status and/or authenticity of said document can be determined by sensing said coded data to obtain the secure document unique identifier and communicating with the computer system to determine the validity status and/or authenticity information corresponding thereto.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure document includes first and second printed patterns on opposed sides of a sheet material of the secure document, the first and second printed patterns forming a watermark pattern when viewed through the sheet material.
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3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the coded data is printed on the secure document so as to be substantially invisible in the visible spectrum.
4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the secure document is printed on
25 demand.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the secure document is printed on demand in response to a request from a user through said computer system, and wherein the printed

information includes a photographic representation of the requesting user.

6. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the secure document is produced as part of an electronic commerce transaction.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure document is a ticket or coupon.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the validity status and/or authenticity information includes an indication of whether the ticket or coupon has been canceled by its issuer.

9. A method of issuing secure documentation, such as tickets or coupons, including the steps of:

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producing a secure document having printed information and coded data thereon, the coded data including a unique identifier indicative of the secure document;

recording, in a computer system, a correspondence between the secure document and validity status and/or authenticity information relating to the document; and

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providing a sensing device adapted to sense said coded data on the secure document, the sensing device being further adapted for communication with said computer system, whereby the validity status and/or authenticity of said document can be determined by sensing said coded data to obtain the secure document unique identifier and communicating with the computer system to determine the validity status and/or authenticity information corresponding thereto;

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wherein the secure document is produced on demand in response to a request from a user to an issuer by way of said computer system, and wherein the secure document is produced at the user's premises.

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at least one sensing device adapted to sense said coded data on the secure document, the sensing device being further adapted for communication with said computer system to obtain the stored validity status and/or authenticity information corresponding to the secure document.

5 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the terminal device is controllable by a user to produce a secure document on demand, and wherein the coded data is supplied from an issuer through said computer system to the terminal device.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the secure document includes first and second printed patterns on opposed sides of a sheet material of the secure document, the first and second printed patterns forming a watermark pattern when viewed through the sheet material.

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22. The system of claim 18, wherein the secure document is produced as part of an
25 electronic commerce transaction.

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24. The system of claim 23, wherein the validity status and/or authenticity information includes an indication of whether the ticket or coupon has been canceled by its issuer.